

**RCC Scrap Tire Workgroup**  
EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

**Geographic location or area of activity:** National

**Description of activity:** The Scrap Tire Workgroup contributes to the overall goals of Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC), a multi-faceted initiative implemented by USEPA with three overarching goals: 1. to prevent pollution and promote recycling and reuse of materials; 2. to reduce the use of toxic chemicals; and 3. to conserve energy and materials.

The Scrap Tire Workgroup of the RCC addresses various issues related to scrap tire management and markets. At the end of 2003, the U.S. generated approximately 290 million scrap tires. Historically, these scrap tires took up space in landfills or provided breeding grounds for mosquitoes and rodents when stockpiled or illegally dumped. Fortunately, markets now exist for 80% of these scrap tires, up from 17% in 1990. The remaining scrap tires are still stockpiled or landfilled; however, recycling and beneficial use markets continue to grow.

The overall goals of the workgroup are (1) to divert 85% of newly generated scrap tires to reuse, recycling or energy recovery by 2008 (vs. 70% in 2003), and (2) to reduce by 55% the number of tires in existing (270 million in 2003) stockpiles by 2008. The workgroup is working with outside stakeholders on a methodology for calculating progress on goal (1) and waiting for biannual data. Progress to date on goal (2) includes a 31.6% reduction in the number of tires in existing stockpiles (through 2005; 2007 numbers not yet available).

**Interagency partners:** State environmental agencies

**Local partners:** Industry groups

**Activity URL:** <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/tires/workgroup.htm>